

ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT

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Congress Seonds the CIA

An exhaustive compilation of Soviet statistics by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress has verified what the CIA told the nation months back. Namely, that contrary to Red propaganda, the Soviet economy is not vaulting at a record rates ahead of the West and the United States; that in fact, it is now creeping along at little better than 2 per cent growth per year, an arthritic pace for any modern industrial nation.

The additional evidence should serve to quiet the stridently vocal among us, who seem unwilling to be convinced that the Russians, economically and militarily, are not 10 feet tall.

The President and CIA should be commended in releasing the figures when they did. The

CIA should be commended for its accurate estimation. American foreign policy will be served by proper use of these reports.

They are a powerful argument to persuade allies to refrain from granting long-term credit to the Russians, thus pressuring Communists to turn their reserves from missiles and rockets to meat and fertilizer.

The results should also be given exhaustive treatment in broadcasts to the Soviet satellites, to convince these people that any economic relief they anticipate is not likely to be forthcoming from Moscow.

This achievement of the CIA ranks alongside its use of the U-2 and the overthrow of pro-Red regimes in Guatemala and Iran in the last decade.